

Message Text

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PASS AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARTER NEWS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT CARTER ON SOUTH AFRICA, PANAMA CANAL, OWEN-YOUNG TRIP, AND VANCE TRIP AT OPENING OF PRESIDENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON AUG. 23.

2. "I HAVE THREE OR FOUR BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS TO MAKE BEFORE I ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS. FIRST OF ALL, IN RESPONSE TO OUR OWN DIRECT INQUIRY AND THAT OF OTHER NATIONS, SOUTH AFRICA HAS INFORMED US THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE AND DO NOT INTEND TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES FOR ANY PURPOSE, EITHER PEACEFUL OR AS A WEAPON, THAT THE KALAHARI TEST SITE WHICH HAS BEEN IN QUESTION IS NOT DESIGNED FOR USE TO TEST NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES, AND THAT NO NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE TEST WILL BE TAKEN IN SOUTH AFRICA NOW OR IN THE FUTURE. WE APPRECIATE THIS COMMITMENT FROM SOUTH AFRICA AND THIS INFORMATION. WE WILL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION THERE VERY CLOSELY. WE WILL ALSO RENEW OUR EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE SOUTH AFRICA TO PLACE ALL THEIR NUCLEAR POWER PRODUCTION CAPABILITIES UNDER INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS AND INSPECTIONS AND

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ENCOURAGE THEM ALONG WITH OTHER NATIONS TO SIGN A NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION TREATY.

3. "ANOTHER ITEM IS THAT AS RELATES TO THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY, WE HAVE BECOME INTERESTED, AFTER THE ORIGINAL DISCUSSIONS WERE CONCLUDED, IN ASSURING THAT SOME DEFINITE COMMITMENT BE MADE ABOUT A POSSIBLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF

A SEA LEVEL CANAL. AS YOU KNOW, THE EXISTING CANAL FACILITIES CANNOT BE USED FOR LARGE WARSHIPS OR CARGO SHIPS, AND IF IT BECOMES NECESSARY IN THE FUTURE FOR A SEA LEVEL CANAL TO BE CONSTRUCTED, WE WANT TO BE SURE THAT WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE INVOLVED DIRECTLY IN THIS CONSTRUCTION AND NOT HAVE SOME POSSIBLE HOSTILE NATION SUPPLANT US WITH OUR INFLUENCE IN THE CANAL AREA. WE HAVE ASKED PANAMA FOR THIS ASSURANCE AND THIS WILL BE PART OF THE TREATIES THAT WE WILL SIGN, THAT IF ANY SEA LEVEL CANAL OR MODIFICATION OF THE PRESENT CANAL IS CONCLUDED, THAT WE WILL BE PART OF IT IF WE CHOOSE AND ALSO IN RETURN THAT ANY SEA LEVEL CANAL TO BE BUILT DURING THE TERMS OF THE TREATY WILL BE BUILT IN PANAMA.

4. "A THIRD ITEM THAT I HAVE TO REPORT TO YOU IS THAT IN OUR EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN OR ZIMBABWE CRISIS, WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO EVOLVE, ALONG WITH THE BRITISH, A FAIR PROPOSAL THAT WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE FRONTLINE NATIONS AND NATIONALIST FORCES IN RHODESIA, TO THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IN RHODESIA, TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS AND OTHERS, AND THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS IN LUSAKA, WHICH IS IN ZAMBIA, BEGINNING FRIDAY. AMBASSADOR YOUNG, REPRESENTING US, AND FOREIGN MINISTER DAVID OWEN, REPRESENTING THE BRITISH, WILL BE MEETING WITH THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS IN LUSAKA ON SATURDAY THE 27TH OF AUGUST. THERE THEY WILL GO OVER PROPOSALS ON THE

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RHODESIAN QUESTION, AND I BELIEVE THIS IS A POSSIBLE STEP TOWARD A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THAT QUESTION. WE STILL HAVE A LOT OF ISSUES TO RESOLVE, BUT IT IS AN ENCOURAGING THING.

5. "THE OTHER THING I WOULD LIKE TO REPORT IS THAT SECRETARY VANCE IS CONTINUING HIS DISCUSSIONS IN CHINA, PRIMARILY WITH FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA, AND THIS EVENING HE HAS BEEN HAVING A BANQUET SPONSORED BY AND HOSTED BY TENG HSAIO-PING, WHO IS THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN CHINA, AND IS ALSO THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE RESULTS OF THESE IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS MIGHT BE YET. I WON'T BE PREPARED TO GIVE YOU ANY DETAILED INFORMATION UNTIL I HEAR FROM SECRETARY VANCE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THESE TALKS."

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